

## Remarks at the Memorial to Hector Peterson in Soweto, South Africa *March 28, 1998*

Thank you very much. Premier Motshekga, Father, Foreign Minister Nzo, Ambassador Sonn, Ambassador Joseph, Mayor Mayathula, Mayor Mogase. I'd like to especially thank Walter Sisulu and Mrs. Sisulu for being here and Helen Suzman and Dorothy Molefe. Thank you all so much for coming.

I thank the Soweto Heritage Trust for their work on this magnificent memorial. And I thank the people of Soweto for making Hillary and me feel welcome here.

This solemn place commemorates forever the death of one young boy, a death that shocked the world into a new recognition of the vast evil of apartheid. Today, as South Africa enjoys what our President Lincoln called "a new birth of freedom," we remember the historic events of this decade and we remember that none of them could have been possible without the bravery of the young men and women of the townships who took to the streets in protest, many of whom were cut down in struggle, more of whom were damaged by prison and torture. We remember generations divided by a system that denied them equality, justice, and the opportunity to make the most of what God gave them at birth.

Here in the heart of Soweto, on behalf of all the American people, we also honor those who led the fight over so many decades to end apartheid. Some of their names are now well known all around the world: Biko, Tambo, Hani, Suzman. Many others have names that most of us who are not South African have never heard and now will never know, black, white, colored South Africans who answered the call of conscience. But all of them together, by their

unyielding refusal to accept injustice, summoned men and women around this country, and indeed around the world, to raise their voices and work until change came to South Africa, people who gave themselves for the greater good of their country men and women, people who by their very example made our world a better place to live. For this, all men and women of good will in every nation on this Earth should be profoundly grateful.

With the tree that Hillary and I just planted with the help of those wonderful young people, we remember all who fought, all who suffered, all who died. Let this tree, a symbol of new life, recall their sacrifices but also embody with every blooming the bright and hopeful new day they gave so much to bring to South Africa. And with every new day, let us be all the more grateful that they made it possible.

Thank you very much, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:57 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Premier Mathole Motshekga of Gauteng Province; Father Cornelius Mpahki, rector, Holy Cross Anglican Church, who gave the invocation; Minister of Foreign Affairs Alfred Nzo of South Africa; South African Ambassador to the U.S. Franklin Sonn; U.S. Ambassador to South Africa James A. Joseph; Mayors Nandi Mayathula-Khoza of Soweto and Isaac Mogase of Greater Johannesburg; retired head of the African National Congress Walter Sisulu and his wife, Albertina; Helen Suzman, former Member of Parliament; and Dorothy Molefe, mother of Hector Peterson.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Transportation Legislation *March 28, 1998*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Since taking office in 1993, my Administration has made a commitment to both fiscal discipline and the strategic investments we need to lay the foundation for a strong and healthy eco-

nomics future. Our initiatives have helped produce economic conditions never imagined when I first took office. We have reduced the budget deficit from \$290 billion in 1993, and may realize a potential surplus in 1998, reaching

balance years before our target date. We now enjoy low unemployment, modest inflation, sustained economic growth and a level of prosperity that is a model for other countries.

Our economic policy has always demonstrated our commitment to public investments in our people to complement our commitment to private investments, fueled by successful deficit reduction. Our priorities have always included a combination of vital investments in education and training, environment, community empowerment, research, infrastructure and transportation.

Certainly investing in a reliable, efficient, and a well-constructed system of highway and mass transit is an important domestic priority and critical to our economic success. In fact, the budget I submitted this year asks for 40 percent more for transportation than the average annual expenditure in the previous administration.

However, I have serious concerns that the extent of proposed new spending in this transportation bill goes too far and could threaten both our fiscal discipline and our commitment to education and other critical investments in

our future. Transportation is an important domestic priority, but we must strike a balance so that we do not allow one priority to squeeze out other critical investments such as education or undermine our fiscal discipline.

We should not and need not reject fiscal discipline or force cuts in critical programs on which our citizens and country rely to build a strong America in the 21st century. If we show a balance of our values as we reach a truly balanced budget, we can maintain fiscal discipline while maintaining strong investments in both our people and our physical infrastructure.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker, and Richard A. Gephardt, minority leader, House of Representatives, and Trent Lott, majority leader, and Thomas A. Daschle, minority leader, United States Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

## Remarks at the Opening of the Ronald H. Brown Commercial Center in Johannesburg, South Africa

March 28, 1998

Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Motlana, for the wonderful introduction, for the extraordinary example of your career—physician to President Mandela, leader in the struggle for South Africa's freedom, and most recently, one of the most successful businessmen in the new South Africa.

Thank you, Secretary Daley, Congressman Rangel, Secretary Herman, Secretary Slater. To our ambassadors, Mr. Berger, Reverend Jackson; to the Members of Congress and the American business leaders here today. Minister Manuel, to Millard Arnold, thank you for all the work you did on this. And to all the members of the South African community who are here, thank you for what you're doing to build a strong South Africa and to build the bonds of commerce between our two nations.

Let me also say I'm pleased that a young member of my White House staff, born in Johannesburg, Russell Horwitz, is here today with

his grandparents, Maurice and Phyllis Goldstein. But I'm especially pleased that Alma Brown is here.

This has been an incredible trip to Africa, a trip which I was urged to make by Ron Brown, starting before I became President. And I was just sitting here thinking that after all this time, Ron Brown can still draw a crowd. [Laughter]

This has been a magical tour of this magnificent continent, and in each place, I've thought about Ron and how he would have reacted to seeing a half a million people in Ghana; to talking to the President of Uganda, first, about the possibility of an American investment running into the hundreds of millions of dollars, and then walking into a little village and talking to women who got loans of \$50 to start their own business; meeting with the survivors of the Rwandan genocide; coming here, and all the